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ABSTRACT

The relationship between rock music preference and antisocial behavior among Korean adolescents was examined. The Korean versions of the Sensation Seeking Scale and the Antisocial Behavior Checklist were used to measure sensation seeking motivation and delinquency. Adolescents (N=1,079) were categorized as "rock/metal," "dance," or "ballad" based on their preference in music. In addition, rock band or fan club members were sampled as "rock band" (N=79). Rock band and rock/metal groups were significantly higher on both scales than any other group. However, ANCOVA revealed no differences in antisocial behavior among music preference group when sensation-seeking motivation is controlled. This means that sensation-seeking motivation should be considered a mediating factor. This study supports the generally accepted idea that rock music can influence adolescents' antisocial behavior. (EMK)

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Rock music and Korean Adolescent's Antisocial behavior

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Abstract

This study examined the relationship between Rock music preference and antisocial behavior among Korean adolescents. The Korean version of Sensation Seeking Scale(SSS-K) and Antisocial Behavior Checklist(ABC) were used to measure sensation seeking motivation and delinquency. 1079 male and female adolescents were categorized as Rock/metal, Dance, Ballad, based on their preference in music. In addition, rock band or fanclub member were sampled as Rockband(N=79). As the results, Rockband and Rock/metal were significantly higher in ABC and SSS-K scores than any other group. However, the result of ANCOVA shows that there are no differences among music preference group in antisocial behavior when controlling sensation seeking motivation. This means that sensation seeking motivation should be considered as a mediating factor. Consequently, this study supported the generally accepted idea that rock music can influence adolescent's antisocial behavior.

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Introduction

Rock music has been traditionally characterized as revolutionary art with a strong youth-orientation and elements of counter-culture. The history of rock and roll is largely a set of images: musical and visual, youth, fun and rebellion(Grossberg, 1992). Rock music, like television, has been available to young people for over 30 years. It has been suggested that rock music content reflects the interests and concerns of adolescents(Tanner, 1981; Greeson & Williams, 1986). Others have suggested that popular music plays a more active role in adolescence-that of actually shaping or influencing young people through leading them to question established behavior patterns, values, and ideas(Greenfield, 1975; Lason & Kubey, 1983). The content of current popular television and music programming has become a topic of major controversy and concern. Overt drug use, violence, and sexually explicit themes have appeared frequently in popular music and on TV(Boxer et al, 1985). There have been many suggestion about causal link between delinquency or antisocial behavior and rock or heavymetal music preference(Arnett, 1991). Rock music videos are the latest media offering to come under attack by psychologists and concerned parents(Hansen & Hansen, 1990). But psychological studies about rock music are very rare in Korea. So, this research was conducted to explore the relationship between rock music preference and antisocial behavior.

Method

subjects

The subject were male and female adolescents from 6th grade at primary school to first grade at college in Korea. Based on their preference on music, respondents were categorized as Rock/metal preference group(n=133, mean age=16.4), Dance group(N=446, mean age=14.7), Ballad group(N=500, mean age=15.7). In addition, 79 adolescents who work in Rock bands or a member of fanclub of Rock bands were sampled as Rock Band(mean age

=16.8).

instrument

The Korean version of Sensation Seeking Scale(SSS-K: Zuckerman et al., 1978; Park et al., 1995) was used to measure sensation seeking motivation. It was composed of 4 subscales. The reliablility of subscales were as followss: Experience Seeking(α = .66), Thrill & Adventure Seeking (α = .68), Disinhibition (α= .57), but because of too low reliablility, Boredom sensitivity (α = .28) was not used. To measure antisocial behavior, Antisocial Behavior Checklist(ABC: Kwak & Moon, 1995) was used. The cronbach's α of this scale was .9488.

Results

The results are as follows: Among the 4 different music preference group, Rock band and Rock/metal group reported highest ABC score(Table 1). Rockband group reported high scores at items about serious delinquency(such as drug use, sexual assault, violence, robbery; $F_{3,1154}$ = 20.20, $p < .001$), and Rock/Metal and Rockband group reported more light delinquency than others(for example, using curses or slangs, cheating at test; $F_{3,1154}$ = 6.40, $p < .001$). SSS-K score was also high at Rockband and Rock/metal group, especially at experience seeking($F_{3,1154}$ = 20.57, $p < .001$), disinhibition($F_{3,1154}$ = 12.05, $p < .001$), and thrill & adventure seeking($F_{3,1154}$ = 4.60, $p < .01$) subscales(Table 2).

The Rockband group members would be considerd as more commited and exposed to rock music, so this result means that the generally accepted idea of rock music as an antisocial subculture is somewhat true. To separate the effect of sensation seeking motivation from the effect of music preference on antisocial behavior, analysis of covariance(ANCOVA) were conducted. When Rockband group was excluded, the main effect of music preference on antisocial behavior was not significant without the covariance of sensation

seeking motivation(Table 3). This results indicated that the relationship between rock music preference and antisocial behavior would be mediated by sensation seeking motivation. The relationship between sensation seeking motivation and antisocial behavior has been supposed from many studies(Park et al, 1995; Newcomb & McGee, 1991). So, rock music could be understood as the indicator of sensation seeking motivation. Sensation seeking motivation was known as developmental variable, reaches to the highest level at the age of 16-19(Zuckerman, 1974), 15 in Korea(Park, et al. 1995). It suggests that, Rock music preferences and antisocial behaviors in youth are expression of sensation seeking motivation, and decrease as they grow up.

Table 1. Scores of Antisocial Behavior Checklist in terms of Music Preference

Antisocial Behavior	Like What kind of Music (N)			Rock Band (N=79)	*F*
	Rock/Metal (133)	Dance (446)	Ballad (500)		
Light delinquency	3.314[a] (.95)	3.024[b] (1.00)	3.027[b] (.97)	3.396[a] (.82)	6.40***
Serious delinquency	1.133[b] (.38)	1.098[b] (.34)	1.064[b] (.23)	1.392[a] (.75)	20.20***
Property delinquency	1.701[a] (.75)	1.428[b] (.62)	1.435[b] (.56)	1.758[a] (.79)	12.77***

Note. Row means not sharing a common subscript are significantly different ($p < .05$)
* $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$ *** $p < .001$

Table 2. Scores of Sensation Seeking Scale in terms of Music Preference

Sensation Seeking	Like What kind of Music (N)			Rock Band (N=79)	*F*
	Rock/Metal (133)	Dance (446)	Ballad (500)		
Experience seeking	.557[a] (.165)	.464[b] (.178)	.471[b] (.179)	.596[a] (.189)	20.57***
Disinhibition	.413[a] (.247)	.332[b] (.233)	.295[a] (.262)	.425[a] (.263)	12.05***
Thrill & Sensation seeking	.766[a]	.686[b] (.206)	.696[b] (.228)	.669[b] (.243)(.254)	4.60**

Note. Row means not sharing a common subscript are significantly different ($p < .05$)
* $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$ *** $p < .001$

Table 3. Main effect of Music preference on Antisocial behavior with covariance of Sensation Seeking Motivation.

Variable	SS	df	MS	F
Dependent variable: Serious Delinquency				
1.effects of sensation seeking	7.767	3	2.589	30.317***
1)experience seeking	1.465	1	1.465	17.154***
2)thrill & adventure	.269	1	.269	3.145
3)disinhibition	3.584	1	3.584	41.974***
2.main effects of music preference	.174	2	.087	1.017
Dependent variable: Light Delinquency				
1.effects of sensation seeking	182.432	3	60.811	77.465***
1)experience seeking	64.839	1	64.839	82.596***
2)thrill&adventure	.192	1	.192	.245
3)disinhibition	37.099	1	37.099	47.260***
2.main effects of music preference	.554	2	.277	.353

Note. Rockband group was excluded in this analysis, when they included, the main effect of music preference on serious delinquency was significant($F_{3,1151}$ = 12.58, p <.001)

* $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$ *** $p < .001$

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